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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,237	08/28/2003	Sebastian Bierwirth	TRW(AS)6716	6394

7590

10/20/2005

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, STEPHEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3641

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/650,237

Applicant(s)

BIERWIRTH ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen M. Johnson

Art Unit

3641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-16, 18-30 and 32-34 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7, 11, 19-21, 23-25, 29 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10, 12, 14, 26-28, 30, 32 and 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-16, 18-30 and 32-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 3641

1. Applicant's election without traverse of species A (figs. 1-2) in the reply filed on 10/18/2004 is acknowledged.

Claims 4 and 22 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected species. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-16, 18-21, 23-30, and 32-33 read on the elected species and an action on these claims follows.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 19-21, 23-25, 29, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young et al. (705).

Young et al. disclose a gas generator comprising:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a) a tubular outer housing;                        | 112, 116                         |
| b) a combustion chamber inside the outer housing;  | inside 112, 116                  |
| c) a charge of propellant (solid);                 | 148, 152, col. 4,<br>lines 64-67 |
| d) at least one igniter unit;                      | 164                              |
| e) an igniter;                                     | 160                              |
| f) a radial ignition transfer opening;             | contains 164                     |
| g) a distribution space or intermediate space; and | inside 120                       |

Art Unit: 3641

h) a combustion chamber wall.

144

4. Claims 15-16 and 18 are allowed.

5. Claims 8-10, 12, 14, 26-28, 30, and 32-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 19-21, 23-25, 29, and 34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-6877 and whose e-mail address is ([Stephen.Johnson@uspto.gov](mailto:Stephen.Johnson@uspto.gov)). The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 571-272-6873. The Central FAX phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 800-786-9199.



**STEPHEN M. JOHNSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Stephen M. Johnson  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3641

SMJ  
October 17, 2005